

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SY-05

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R 071641Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000T

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 0064

FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DIKEOS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, NG

SUBJ: PHYSICAL SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS

1. HAVE JUST HEARD THAT YOU PLAN VISIT TO ABIDJAN IN LATE JANUARY FOR RSO MEETING. WE WOULD BE DELIGHTED HAVE YOU MAKE SIDE TRIP TO NIAMEY SO YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF TYPE OF SECURITY PROBLEMS WE HAVE. IF THIS IS NOT IN CARDS, WE STILL HOPE SOMEONE FROM YOUR STAFF CAN PEEL OFF AFTER ABIDJAN MEETING AND VISIT NIAMEY, WITH RSO IF THIS IS CONVENIENT, FOR A) ON SPOT REVIEW OF PROJECTS UNDER CONSIDERATION TO IMPROVE OUR SECURITY SITUATION; AND B) CONSIDERATION OF ASSIGNMENT HERE ON TDY OF SOMEONE FROM YOUR OFFICE PREPARED TO OBTAIN AND EVALUATE BIDS, NEGOTIATE CONTRACTS FOR RSO RECOMMENDED PROJECTS AND SUPERVISE CONSTRUCTION.

2. I URGE THIS BECAUSE WHILE WE HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS IN CARRYING OUT RSO RECOMMENDATIONS (ABIDJAN A-61, JULY 1975) OUR EFFORTS TO DATE ARE REALLY PERIPHERAL TO OUR BASIC SECURITY PROBLEMS. ESSENTIALLY WE ARE NO BETTER OFF NOW THAN WHEN I WROTE YOU ON DECEMBER 26, 1974 OR WHEN WE SUBMITTED OUR GENERAL REEVALUATION OF SECURITY SITUATION (NIAMEY 4048). TO JUDGE BY LATEST EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES (NIAMEY 4682, STATE 001253) THIS UNHAPPY STATE OF AFFAIRS CAN DRAG ON AND ON UNLESS WE CHANGE
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OUR TACTICS. WE ARE REPLYING TO STATE 001253 BUT I DOUBT

WHETHER OUR MESSAGE WILL RESOLVE YOUR DOUBTS AND
THIS WILL CALL FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF CABLES AND SO ON.
PROBLEM IS THAT WE LACK EXPERTISE TO EVALUATE
BIDS OF FRENCH COMPANIES FULLY EXPLOITING
THEIR MONOPOLISTIC SITUATIONS OR TO TRIM THEM AND
POSSIBLY END UP WITH SUBSTANDARD SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.
WE ALSO NOT IN POSITION TO DECIDE WHETHER WE SHOULD
GO ALONG WITH FRENCH OFFERS OR WHETHER WE CAN DO JOB
OURSELVES. THIS DEPENDS ON INPUT OF FUNDS,
PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT FROM WASHINGTON AND ELSEWHERE
ABOUT WHICH WE ARE NOT KNOWLEDGEABLE.

3. TO CUT THROUGH THESE PROBLEMS AND DELAYS WE HAVE IN
MIND SOMEONE FROM YOUR OFFICE TO VISIT
NIAMEY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND TO DO JOB DESCRIBED IN
PARA 1(B) ABOVE AND TO REMAIN AS LONG AS NECESSARY
TO GET JOB DONE.

4. ANOTHER REASON I WOULD HOPE YOU OR SOMEONE
ON YOUR STAFF COULD COME OUR WAY BEFORE OR AFTER
ABIDJAN MEETING IS TO DISCUSS ASSIGNMENT OF MSG
UNIT TO NIAMEY. BEFORE MOVING ON THIS WE NEED TO
KNOW MORE ABOUT FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
ARRANGEMENTS AND TIMING OF BOTH IN RELATION
TO ARRIVAL OF MSG UNIT.

5. HOPE WE CAN PERSUADE YOU TO VISIT US AND SEE
FOR YOURSELF.HECK

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